Appl. No. 10/656,096 Amdt. dated December 17, 2004 Preliminary Amendment

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1 and 13-18 have been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been introduced.

## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

L Chall

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